



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 4, 2006

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PORT ARTHUR RECEIVES CRIME FIGHTING GRANT

(Beaumont, TX) The City of Port Arthur has received a federal crime fighting grant in the amount of \$175,000 announced United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig today.

Orwig was pleased to make the announcement, "Local, state and federal agencies are already collaborating on several projects to clean up Port Arthur. I am particularly excited that a major portion of the grant will be used for community policing. This grant could not have come at a better time for everyone."

The award is to be used for the Port Arthur Weed and Seed site that received Official Recognition in March 2002. The grant notification from the Office of Justice Programs stated that \$115,000 of the total \$175,000 award has been allocated to support weeding activities, including community policing.

Each Weed and Seed site is required to demonstrate its local coordination efforts and set goals for the site. Law enforcement efforts will focus on reducing drug trafficking and reducing the number of neighborhood prostitutes. Community policing goals include improving relations between the residents and the police department. Prevention, intervention, and treatment goals include creating a safe and healthy environment for all neighborhood residents and reducing hunger and homelessness in the area. Neighborhood restoration goals include increasing employment among the neighborhood residents and improving the area's physical condition.

The Port Arthur Weed and Seed site is designated as an area that includes a northern boundary of the Kansas City Southern railway tracks, Woodworth Blvd. to the east, the Sabine-Neches ship canal to the south, and the KCS railway tracks to the west.